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CASE 4-32185P14USN

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1624

PAIVI JAANA KUKKOLA

Examiner: Truong, T.

APPLICATION NO: 09/966,960

FILED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

FOR: THYROMIMETIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement of April 23, 2003, involving Groups I-V.

The Applicant herewith provisionally elects Group IV (Claims 28-37) with traverse with respect to Group V.

It is respectfully submitted that process claims of Group IV (Claims 28-37) and of Group V (Claims 38-43) should be examined in the same application.

As to the Examiner's observation that Groups IV and V are unrelated, it is respectfully submitted that such is in error. Reaction sequences and starting materials are in fact common to claims of both groups.

For example, Claims 29 and 38 are both directed to the preparation of compounds of formula (XIb) with common and identical steps (a)-(c). The difference between Claims 29 and 38 is that Claim 29 is directed to the preparation of carboxylic acids of formula (XIb), wherein R₁ is OH, and Claim 38 is directed to the preparation of the corresponding ester

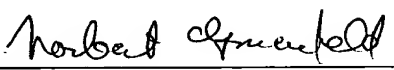
precursors of formula (XIb), the products of step (c) in Claim 29. Also, Claims 42 and 43 of Group V are directed to the starting materials common to claims of both groups.

Furthermore, it is noted that claims of Group IV and V are classified in the same classes and sub-classes.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that claims of Groups IV and V be examined together in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430/2
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080



Norbert Gruenfeld
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,061
(862) 778-7853

NG/ld

Date: May 20, 2003